Serial No. 09/932,553
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A communication adapter system for connecting a client to a network, the system comprising:

a server having a memory electrically connected to the client;

a primary [[I/O]] Input/Output (I/O) board electrically connected to the server and having a primary network interface card (NIC), the primary NIC having a primary I/O port for connecting to the network, the primary NIC configured to enable selectively enabling active transfer of data from the client to the network through the primary I/O port;

a secondary I/O board electrically connected to the server and having a secondary NIC, the secondary NIC having a secondary I/O port for connecting to the network, the secondary NIC configured to disable selectively enabling active transfer of data from the client to the network though through the secondary I/O port;

a primary switch electrically connected to the primary I/O port and the network;

a secondary switch electrically connected to the secondary I/O port and the network; and

program signals stored in the memory of the server and defining an executable program for:

generating a connectivity signal to the primary [[I/O]] switch to test connectivity at least from the primary I/O board to the primary switch;

monitoring the primary I/O port to detect a response signal from the primary switch within a predetermined time period after the generation of the connectivity signal;

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configuring the primary NIC to disable active transfer of data if
the response signal is not detected within the time period; and

configuring the secondary NIC to enable the active transfer of data if
the response signal is not detected within the time period.

2.   (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the network is an~FDDI~ a Fiber
Distributed Data Interface (FDDI) network.

3.   (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the program comprises generating a
connectivity signal to a remote device on the network to test connectivity from
the primary I/O board through the primary switch and to the remote device.

4.   (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the connectivity signal is a ping
signal.

5.   (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the program comprises
transferring network information from the primary NIC to the secondary NIC.

6.   (currently amended) The system of Claim 5 wherein the network information
includes one of an [[IP]] Internet Protocol (IP) address, a netmask, a broadcast, and a
logical IP address.

7.   (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the program comprises notifying
a systems administrator of a failure.

8.   (currently amended) A method for detecting failures in a communication
adapter system for connecting a client to a network, the method comprising:

generating a connectivity signal from a primary [[I/O]] Input/Output (I/O)
board of the system to a primary switch of the system to test connectivity at least
from the primary I/O board to the primary switch;

monitoring a primary I/O port of the primary I/O board to detect a response

signal within a predetermined time period after the generation of the connectivity
signal;

      configuring a primary [[NIC]] Network Interface Card (NIC) of the primary I/O
board to disable active transfer of data from the client to the network through the
primary I/O port if the response signal is not detected within the time period; and

      configuring a secondary NIC of a secondary I/O board of the system to enable
the active transfer of data from the client to the network through a secondary I/O
port of the secondary I/O board if the response signal is not detected within the
time period.

9.   (currently amended) The method of Claim 8 wherein the network is ~~an FDDI~~
a Fiber Distributed Data Interface (FDDI) network.

10.   (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein generating includes generating a
connectivity signal to a remote device on the network to test connectivity from
the primary I/O board through the primary switch and to the remote device.

11.   (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein generating includes generating a
ping signal.

12.   (original) The method of Claim 8 comprising transferring network
information from the primary NIC to the secondary NIC.

13.   (currently amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein transferring includes
transferring one of an [[IP]] Internet Protocol (IP) address, a netmask, a broadcast,
and a logical IP address.

14.   (original) The method of Claim 8 comprising notifying a systems
administrator of failure.

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15.   (new) A communication adapter system for connecting a client to a
network, the system comprising:

a host connected to the client;

a primary Input/Output (I/O) board connected to the host and having a
primary network interface card (NIC), the primary NIC having a primary I/O port
for connecting to the network, the primary NIC selectively enabling active transfer
of data from the client to the network through the primary I/O port;

a secondary I/O board connected to the server and having a secondary
NIC, the secondary NIC having a secondary I/O port for connecting to the
network, the secondary NIC selectively enabling active transfer of data from the
client to the network through the secondary I/O port;

a primary switch electrically connected to the primary I/O port and the
network;

a secondary switch electrically connected to the secondary I/O port and
the network; and

an adapter mechanism on the server operating as follows:

generating a connectivity signal to the primary [[I/O]] switch to test
connectivity from the primary I/O board to the primary switch;

monitoring the primary I/O port to detect a response signal from
the primary switch within a predetermined time period after the generation
of the connectivity signal;

configuring the primary NIC to disable active transfer of data if
the response signal is not detected within the time period; and

configuring the secondary NIC to enable the active transfer of data if
the response signal is not detected within the time period, the configuring
including transferring network information from the primary NIC to the
secondary NIC, wherein the network information comprises IP addresses
of other devices connected to the network, netmasks, or broadcasts.